

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, and 5-12 are now present in this application.

Claims 1, 5, 8, 11 and 12 have been amended, and claims 2 and 4 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 8 and 12 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In view of the foregoing amendments, it is respectfully submitted that all claims particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the instant invention. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC 112, second paragraph rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 5 and 7 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over ANZAI et al., U.S. Patent 6,301,101, in view of WICKS, U.S. Patent 5,673,169. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over ANZAI et al. in view of WICKS, and further in view of SELLERS, U.S. Patent 5,629,832. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over ANZAI et al. in view of WICKS, and further in view of WALTERS,

II et al., U.S. Design Patent 298,537. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that the Examiner considers claims 4 and 8-12 to contain allowable subject matter. It is noted that the limitations of objected to but allowable claim 4, as well as intervening claim 2, have been incorporated into independent claim 1. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all claims should now be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC 103 rejections are therefore respectfully requested.

Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Because the additional prior art cited by the Examiner has been included merely to show the state of the prior art and has not been utilized to reject the claims, no further comments concerning these documents are considered necessary at this time.

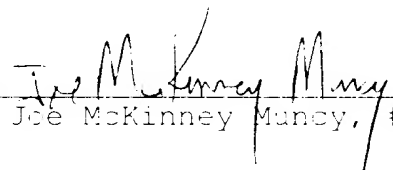
In the event that any outstanding matters remain in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

Appl. No. 09/989,417

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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